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Client: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
Lawyer: Kyle Dumler
Investigator: Ann Schrader
Subject: Simon Tafoya

Ann: All right. This is Ann Schrader. Today is March 26, 2014. I'm here with Simon Tafoya. That's T as in Tom-A-F as in Frank-O-Y-A. He's the Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor. Also sitting in is David Spector, who is the Governor's counsel. We're here to talk about the Governor's attendance at the Democratic Governor's Association Conference in Aspen in July of 2013.

Simon, when did you first learn about the conference?

Simon: Probably a couple weeks prior, but I'm not absolutely certain.

Ann: Did the idea come from the Governor's office or from the DGA?

Simon: I learned about it through our normal process in terms of policy briefings that are distributed, those assignments.

Ann: You received a policy briefing saying that this conference was coming up, and that the Governor wanted to speak on certain topics? Is that the way it worked?

Simon: It comes through our usual list of what his schedule is. If there's a required policy briefing, then I would be assigned to carry that out, to produce a policy briefing.

Ann: Did the idea come from the Governor's office or from the DGA? Do you know?

Simon: I don't know. I learned about it from our internal-

Ann: You don't know whose idea it was to hold the conference?

Simon: No.

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Ann: You said that was a couple weeks before the conference?

Simon: I'm not absolutely sure. Usually I'll learn about policy assignments or briefing assignments a couple weeks before. Just based off of that, I think it was two weeks-

Ann: This didn't seem to be any different than...

Simon: Nope. Not different than what we would normally do.

Ann: Who briefed you about the conference? Did you have a staff meeting about this, or did you get an email, or how was it?

Simon: Usually we'll get some background about just the basic logistics. Maybe there's others who may be presenting in order to ... What the topics might be in terms of policy. That way I have something to work with to actually cue what the Governor would say based off of what he usually says. Maybe other ... Lisa Carpenter, who I work with, who I will usually go to to get that information.

Ann: Did she talk to you about it, or was it something that was written or...

Simon: The only thing that probably would have gotten written was just the fact that I was being flagged that I needed to do something for it. I talked to Lisa, if I remember correctly, and then...

Ann: What exactly did you do once you got notified that your input in a briefing was needed?

Simon: I followed my usual work ... Just put together a few points in terms of what the Governor would want to talk about as it related to the topic and some bios of other panelists or other people who would be speaking on the topic as well, so he was familiar with them. Very basic information probably, not very involved.

Ann: Your topic was economy? Is that right?

Simon: Yeah. Yes. Economy business, something to that effect.

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Ann: Did you have to do some updating? I presume this is information that the Governor has talked on before to other groups, and it's something that needed updating. Some new figures. What?

Simon: It wasn't very involved at all. It was really just basic points that he usually references on a daily basis that really serve as cues to spur his memory versus drawn-out remarks.

Ann: Was there discussion at any point about limiting staff time on something like this? This is the Democratic Governor's Association, so it is partisan. Was that-

David: That's actually not a fact. That's an opinion. Feel free to ask the question. I just want to clarify for the record that that's not a fact. It's an opinion.

Ann: Was there a discussion about limiting staff time on this?

Simon: No. Not that I recall.

Ann: I believe the information from the discovery indicated that you worked about a half an hour on this.

Simon: At most.

Ann: That was the extent of your involvement in preparing for the conference?

Simon: Yes.

Ann: Were you consulted or did you contribute anything to the invitation list; who would attend?

Simon: Nope.

Ann: Were there staff discussions together before or after the conference?

Simon: My conversations were purely based on producing the policy briefing that I was assigned.

Ann: Do you have any knowledge about activities or events surrounding the conference?

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Simon: No.

Ann: Such as like the Aspen Institute or anything like that?

Simon: There was ... I knew that it occurred, because obviously there's in terms of, like I said, the briefings assignments that we get. I knew that it happened on the same day, so to that extent, yes.

Ann: Did the Governor talk to you about the event after he got back?

Simon: No.

Ann: He didn't give you any feedback on your briefing that you had prepared or...

Simon: Nope.

Ann: Is that usual?

Simon: It really depends on his schedule.

David: Wouldn't it be great if we got feedback all the time?

Simon: All the time.

Ann: You didn't talk to him about the conference at all when he got back?

Simon: No.

Ann: Did the Governor or anyone else talk with you about how much he raised for the DGA during the event?

Simon: No.

David: That question implies that he raised money during the event. That's not a fact-

Ann: We're still examining, looking for that.

David: I just want [inaudible 00:07:42]

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Ann: Did he talk to you about fundraising for his campaign during the event?

Simon: No.

Ann: Do you have any knowledge of the Governor receiving campaign funds from anyone during the conference?

Simon: No.

Ann: That ought to do it, unless you have something else you want to add or you want to clarify? Either one of you?

Simon: No.

David: I don't.

Ann: Okay, that's it. Well, thank you.

Proofread by Amber Mooney, Acclaim Investigations LLC 3/28/14 1:35pm